

# **APPENDIX C**

## **BIOLOGY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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### REGULATORY SETTING

#### FEDERAL

##### ***FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the primary federal regulatory authority for biological resources within Los Angeles County. This agency provides regulatory protection for listed animals and plants present in the Los Angeles County area that are protected species by the Federal Endangered Species Acts (FESA). Federally listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats are protected under provisions of the FESA. “Take” under FESA includes activities such as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect. Harm specifically includes significant habitat modification or degradation. The USFWS regulates activities that may result in take of individuals. Candidate species proposed for listing also receive special attention from federal agencies during their review.

##### ***WATERS OF THE U.S.***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction over waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Waters of the U.S. (jurisdictional waters) under Section 404 include all waters used, or potentially used, for interstate commerce. Such waters include wetlands, tidal waters, tributary waters, and other waters such as lakes. Wetlands are defined as habitats that have three important characteristics: (1) hydrophytic vegetation, (2) hydric soils, and (3) wetland hydrology. Wetlands include marshes, meadows, swamps, bogs, floodplains, basins, and seeps. Wetlands may also include less obvious areas such as seasonal ponds, seasonally wet pastures, or seasonal meadows. Navigable waters of the U.S. subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 10 include all lands below mean high water, including former tidal areas that are behind a dike but not yet filled above mean high water. Project activities that will result in fill, dredging, destruction, or alteration of Waters of the U.S. must be in compliance with permit requirements of the USACE.

##### ***MIGRATORY BIRDS***

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (FMBTA, 16 U.S.C., Sec. 703, Supp. I) prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The FMBTA encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs. Migratory is defined broadly in the FMBTA so that most native birds fall under its provisions. The

FMBTA is typically applied on domestic projects to prevent injury or death of nesting birds and their chicks.

## STATE

### ***STATE-LISTED SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES***

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is the primary state regulatory authority for biological resources within Los Angeles County. These agencies provide regulatory protection for listed animals and plants present in the Los Angeles County area that are protected species by the California and federal Endangered Species Acts (CESA and FESA). State-listed rare, threatened, and endangered species are protected under provisions of CESA. Activities that may result in take of individuals (e.g., hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill) are regulated by the CDFG. CDFG has interpreted “take” to include the destruction of nesting and foraging habitat necessary to maintain viable breeding populations of relevant state threatened or endangered species.

### ***SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN AND PROTECTED SPECIES***

The CDFG has produced lists of species of special concern that serve as watch lists. Species on these lists either are of limited distribution or the extent of their habitats has been reduced substantially, such that threat to their populations may be imminent. Thus, their populations should be monitored. These species may receive special attention during environmental review, and may require mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) if impacts are substantial. The California Fish and Game Code also provides lists of vertebrate species that are designated “fully protected.” Such species cannot be taken or possessed without a permit. Table C-1 provides information regarding potential occurrence of special status species and sensitive habitats at the lots.

**TABLE C-1  
POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND  
SENSITIVE HABITATS AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status FWS/CDFG/CNPS	General Habitat	Potential to Occur at PDR and MDR Lots
<b>LISTED SPECIES</b>			
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Ventura marsh milk-vetch <i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	FE/CE/1B	Coastal salt marsh.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Only known at one site in Ventura county. Historically occurred at Ballona marshes on north side of Marina Del Rey in early 1900s.
San Fernando Valley spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	FC/CE/1B	Coastal dune scrub.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurred near Ballona Creek at Marina Del Rey in early 1900's.
Beach spectaclepod <i>Dithyrea maritima</i>	FSC/CT/1B	Coastal sand dunes and coastal scrub.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurred at Ballona marshes at Marina Del Rey in early 1900s.
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Mammals</b>			
Pacific pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris</i> <i>pacificus</i>	FE/CSC	Sandy to rocky soils in coastal sage scrub in southern coastal plains - possibly extinct.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Historically occurred at Marina Del Rey in 1938. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur within the PDR and MDR Lots.
<b>Birds</b>			
Western snowy plover (nesting colony) <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> <i>nivosus</i>	FT/CSC	Sandy beaches on marine and estuarine shores - requires sandy, gravely, or friable soils for nesting.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Historically nested at Playa Del Rey and Docweiler State Beach 1894 - 1914. No suitable nesting habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> <i>coturniculus</i>	FSC/CT	Coastal salt marsh.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reportedly occurred at Playa Del Rey in 1928. No suitable nesting habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
Belding's savannah sparrow <i>Passerculus andwhichensis</i> <i>beldingi</i>	FSC/CE	Nests in Southern California coastal marshes - frequents pickleweed in a few scattered saline emergent wetlands from Santa Barbara County south. Nests on the ground under vegetation.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Observed on South side of Ballona Creek west of Culver Blvd. and Jefferson Blvd. intersection in 2001. No suitable nesting habitat within PDR and MDR Lots.
Coastal California gnatcatcher (nesting) <i>Poliophtila californica</i> <i>californica</i>	FT/CSC	Low coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported at Baldwin Hills in Culver City vicinity. No suitable nesting habitat within PDR and MDR Lots.

**TABLE C-1 (Continued)**  
**POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND**  
**SENSITIVE HABITATS AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

<b>Common Name</b> <i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Status</b> FWS/CDFG/CNPS	<b>General Habitat</b>	<b>Potential to Occur at</b> PDR and MDR Lots
<b>LISTED SPECIES (Continued)</b>			
<b>Birds (cont.)</b>			
California least tern (nesting colony) <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	FE/CE	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California - colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated flat substrates including sand beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Observed nesting at Marina Del Rey and Playa Del Rey in 1996 and 1987. No nesting habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
El Segundo Blue Butterfly <i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	FE/--	Coastal dunes with adult and larva hostplant <i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i> .	<b>Low Potential.</b> Populations known from three fragments of habitat, with El Segundo Dunes west of LAX Airport being the largest site. No hostplants observed at PDR and MDR Lots
<b>SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN</b>			
<b>Mammals</b>			
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	--/CSC	Roost in caves, crevices, open buildings, mines and tunnels, feeding mostly on ground insects; locally common species of low elevations in California.	<b>Low Potential.</b> No reported occurrences. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur at the project area.
Western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis</i>	FSC/CSC	Roosts in crevices on cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels foraging on high flying insects; uncommon resident in southeastern San Joaquin Valley and Coastal Ranges from Monterey Co. southward through southern California, from the coast eastward to the Colorado Desert.	<b>Low Potential.</b> No reported occurrences. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur within the project area.
Long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	FSC/--	Roosts in buildings, crevices, under bark, snags, feeding on arthropods; occurs along the entire coast.	<b>Low Potential.</b> No reported occurrences. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur at the project area.
Townsend's big eared bat <i>Plecotus townsendii townsendii</i>	FSC/CSC	Roosts in caves, mines tunnels and buildings, feeding on moths; found in all but subalpine and alpine habitats, and may be found at any season throughout its range; abundant in mesic sites.	<b>Low Potential.</b> No reported occurrences. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur within the project area.

**TABLE C-1 (Continued)**  
**POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND**  
**SENSITIVE HABITATS AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status FWS/CDFG/CNPS	General Habitat	Potential to Occur at PDR and MDR Lots
<b>SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN (Continued)</b>			
<b>Mammals (cont.)</b>			
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	FSC/CSC	Roosts with other species in buildings, mines, caves and crevices, feeding on flying insects; found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from sea level to 3300 m (11,000 ft), but it is uncommon to rare above 2560 m (8000 ft); optimal habitats are open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed.	<b>Low Potential.</b> No reported occurrences. Suitable habitat for this species does not occur within the project area.
<b>Birds</b>			
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	FSC/CSC	Open, flat, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation with ground squirrel burrows.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported in vicinity of Playa Del Rey at junction of Culver Blvd. and Jefferson Blvd.
<b>Reptiles</b>			
Southwestern pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	FSC/CSC	Lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams and rivers, primarily in foothills and lowlands.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported at Marina Del Rey in 1987. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
Sandy beach tiger beetle <i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i>	FSC/--	Clean, dry light-colored sandy areas adjacent to non-brackish water.	Observed on Dockweiler Beach at Playa Del Rey in 1979 about 1/3 mile west of project site.
Globose dune beetle <i>Coelus globulus</i>	FSC/--	Foredunes and sand hummocks; burrowing beneath sand surface commonly under dune vegetation.	<b>Low to Moderate.</b> Historically occurred on foredunes bordering Dockweiler Beach. Marginally suitable habitat occurs at Cluster 12 (Marina Del Rey).
<b>SPECIES ON OTHER LISTS</b>			
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Southern tarplant <i>Centromadia parryi ssp. australis</i>	--/--/1B	Margins of marshes and swamps, in grassland, and in vernal pools often on disturbed sites.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurred at Ballona marshes at Marina Del Rey in early 1900's; not observed in 1997. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
Orcutt's pincushion <i>Chaenactis glabriuscula var. orcuttiana</i>	--/--/1B	Coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported at Dockweiler Beach at Playa Del Rey in 1980. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.

**TABLE C-1 (Continued)**  
**POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND**  
**SENSITIVE HABITATS AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status FWS/CDFG/CNPS	General Habitat	Potential to Occur at PDR and MDR Lots
<b>SPECIES ON OTHER LISTS (Continued)</b>			
<b>Plants (cont.)</b>			
Coulter's goldfieds <i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	--/--/1B	Coastal salt marshes and swamps, grassland, and vernal pools often on alkaline soils.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurred at Ballona marshes at Marina Del Rey in early 1900's; not observed in 1981. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
Brand's phacelia <i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	--/--/1B	Open areas of coastal scrub and coastal sand dunes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Historically occurred at Playa Del Rey in the 1940's. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
Ballona cinquefoil <i>Potentilla multijuga</i>	--/--/1A	Brackish meadows and seeps in Los Angeles County.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurred at Ballona marshes at Marina Del Rey in late 1800's; possibly extirpated.
<b>ANIMALS</b>			
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
Belkin's dune tabanid fly <i>Brennania belkini</i>	--/*	Coastal sand dunes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Known to occur at El Segundo Dunes in 1987 and Playa Del Rey east of Vista Del Mar in 1980.
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexipus</i> (overwintering sites)	--/*	Dense, wind protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, Monterey cypress) near the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California.	<b>Moderate Potential.</b> Numerous observed in 1988, 1990 and December 1997 in dense eucalyptus grove on the south edge of Ballona wetlands. Marginally suitable habitat for this species occurs at Cluster 9.
Henne's eucosman moth <i>Eucosma hennei</i>	--/*	Endemic to El Segundo Dunes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported to occur at El Segundo Dunes west of LAX airport in 1984.
Lange's El Segundo dune weevil <i>Onychobaris langei</i>	--/*	Coastal sand dunes, endemic at El Segundo dunes.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Historically occurred at El Segundo Dunes west of LAX airport in 1938.
Salt marsh skipper <i>Panoguina errans</i>	--/*	Coastal salt marsh - host plants include <i>Spartina</i> sp. or <i>Distichlis spicata</i> - flight season is June - September.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Occurs at Ballona salt marsh. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
Dorothy's El Segundo dune weevil <i>Trigonoscuta dorothea</i>	--/*	Coastal sand dunes in Los Angeles County.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported to occur at El Segundo Dunes west of LAX airport and south of Ballona Creek in 1980.

**TABLE C-1 (Continued)**  
**POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND**  
**SENSITIVE HABITATS AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

<b>Common Name</b> <i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Status</b> FWS/CDFG/CNPS	<b>General Habitat</b>	<b>Potential to Occur at</b> PDR and MDR Lots
<b>SPECIES ON OTHER LISTS (Continued)</b>			
<b>Invertebrates (cont.)</b> Mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail) <i>Tryonia imitator</i>	--/*	Coastal lagoons and salt marshes from Sonoma County south to San Diego County.	<b>Low Potential.</b> Reported to occur along Ballona Creek in 1974. No suitable habitat at PDR and MDR Lots.
<b>SENSITIVE HABITATS</b>			
Southern coastal salt marsh	--/S2.1/--	Typically, <i>Frankenia</i> sp., <i>Suaeda</i> , and/or <i>Salicornia</i> subterminalis often occur along the upper landward edges of the marshes; <i>Salicornia bigelovii</i> , <i>S. virginica</i> and <i>Batis maritima</i> at middle elevations; and <i>Spartina</i> closest to open water.	<b>Absent.</b> Occurs at mouth of Ballona Creek, between Marina Del Rey on the north and Del Rey Bluffs on the south; creek diked and marsh does not get regular tidal flow.
Southern dune scrub	--/S1.1/--	Dominant species at El Segundo Dunes include <i>Ericameria</i> <i>ericoides</i> , <i>Lupinus chamissonis</i> , <i>Isomeris arobrea</i> , <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> , <i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i> .	<b>Absent.</b> El Segundo Dunes, west of LAX airport.

#### **Status Codes:**

##### Federal Categories (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government

FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government

FPT = Federally proposed for listing as Threatened

FSC = Federal Special Concern Species (former Category 2  
candidates)

##### State Categories (California Dept. of Fish and Game)

CE = Listed as Endangered by the State of California

CT = Listed as Threatened by the State of California

CSC = State Special Concern Species

\* = California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Database. January 2003. Special Animals List. Biannual  
publication, Mimeo.

3511 = Fully protected species (California Fish and Game Code).

3503.5 = Protection for nesting species of Falconiformes (hawks) and Strigiformes (owls).

High Potential = Species expected to occur and meets all habitats as defined in list.

Moderate Potential = Habitat only marginally suitable, or considered suitable but not in species geographic range.

Low Potential = Habitat does not meet species requirements as currently understood in the scientific community.

-- = No listing status.

SOURCE: CDFG 2003; CDFG California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (WHR);



## ***PROTECTION OF RAPTORS***

Birds of prey are protected in California under the California Fish and Game Code, §3503.5. Under §3503.5, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any raptors or owls or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of raptors or owls. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment or loss of reproductive effort is considered a taking by the CDFG. Construction disturbance during the breeding season can result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Any loss of fertile eggs or nesting raptors or any activities resulting in nest abandonment are considered a significant impact.

## ***CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY***

Vascular plants may be listed as rare or endangered in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California, even if those species are not listed under CESA or FESA. Lists produced by CNPS are subject to extensive scientific review and are recognized by botanists with the state and federal government as authoritative. Under CEQA, plants on List 1B can be treated as if they are state or federally listed. These species are categorized as follows:

- List 1A. Plants presumed extirpated in California
- List 1B. Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
- List 2. Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere
- List 3. Plants About Which We Need More Information - A Review List
- List 4. Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

## **LOCAL**

### ***LOS ANGELES COUNTY***

Pursuant to Title 22, Part 16, Section 22.56.2060, Los Angeles County requires an oak tree permit for any activity that involves cutting, destroying, removing, relocating, inflicting damage<sup>11</sup> or encroaching into a protected zone<sup>12</sup> of any *tree* of the *oak* genus which is (a) 25 inches or more in circumference (eight inches in diameter) as measured four and one-half feet above mean natural grade; in the case of an *oak* with more than one trunk, whose combined circumference of any two trunks is at least 38 inches (12 inches in diameter) as measured four and one half feet above mean natural grade, on any lot or parcel of land within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, or (b) any *tree* that has been provided as a replacement *tree*, pursuant to Section 22.56.2180, on any lot or parcel of land within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, unless an *oak tree* permit is first obtained.

Los Angeles County (County) drafted an amended Protected Tree Ordinance (Title 22- Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code) on the January 10, 2002. In addition to protecting oak trees, the

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<sup>11</sup> “Damage” includes any act causing or tending to cause injury to the root system or other parts of a tree, including, but not limited to, burning, application of toxic substances, operation of equipment or machinery, or by paving, changing the natural grade, trenching or excavating within the protected zone of an oak tree.

<sup>12</sup> “Protected zone” shall mean that area within the dripline of an oak tree and extending there from to a point at least five feet outside the dripline, or 15 feet from the trunks of a tree, whichever distance is greater. (Ord. 88-0157 § 2, 1988: Ord. 82-0168 § 2 (part), 1982.)

proposed draft amendment would establish regulations to preserve California walnut and western sycamore, as well as modify encroachment exemptions. This proposed draft amendment has not been adopted (Starks, L. Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, pers. comm., July 8, 2003).

### ***CITY OF LOS ANGELES***

The following regulation is set forth in the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code:

“No person shall relocate the or remove any oak tree, as that term is defined in Section 46.01, where the said oak tree is located on a lot larger than one acre and is not regulated pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter I of this Code, without first having applied for and obtained a permit...” (City of Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 6, Section 46.02).

### **BIOLOGICAL SETTING**

The Marina del Rey (MDR) and Playa del Rey (PDR) lots are situated within an urban environment and lie outside the boundaries of the Coastal Zone (see Section 10, Land Use and Planning). The MDR lot (Cluster 12) lies north of the Marina del Rey Entrance Channel. The site is bordered by residential apartment buildings on the north and south, Venice Beach on the west, and an alleyway on the east. The Cluster 12 site supports a small degraded coastal dune scrub plant community. The site was seeded with an ornamental wildflower mix, but also supports some native species, including dune tansy (*Tanacetum camphoratum*). Dominant non-native species observed include iceplant (also commonly referred as hottentot fig) (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). Sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), a common non-native dune plant, was also observed. The site was heavily disturbed in the past.

The PDR lots (Clusters 1-11) are located on the southern California coast approximately one-half mile south of the Ballona wetlands, one mile east of Dockweiler Beach State Park, and one mile north of the northern boundary of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The Playa del Rey lots are on the plateau of a coastal bluff from which a steep cliff descends approximately 100 feet to Ballona Creek and its associated wetlands. The bluff itself is relatively flat with very little aspect. The Ballona Creek area primarily supports non-degraded and degraded wetlands, agricultural fields (which were former wetlands) and environmental sensitive upland areas as designated by the California Department of Fish and Game (Los Angeles County, 1995). A residential and private open space buffer zone separates the Playa del Rey project lots from the Ballona Creek wetlands area.

The PDR lots are of varying sizes. Most sites are surrounded by residential uses such as adjacent lots with one-family residences or small apartment buildings and residential streets. All of the sites at PDR support primarily non-native, landscaped vegetation on disturbed sandy soils. The dominant plant species observed include iceplant, English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and landscaping lawn grass. Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is the dominant tree species observed at most of the sites. Some sites have been mowed completely or partially for aesthetics and fire reduction. In non-mowed areas, ruderal vegetation has established, including non-native annual grasses and herbs.

## **COMMON WILDLIFE**

Very few wildlife species were detected during the surveys (Chambers, August 2000). Those detected and expected at the site are indicative of the urban landscaping that covers the project area. Wildlife species observed include those typical of urban areas, including American crow, sparrow, house finch, European starling, domestic pigeon and rock dove. Common insects, including ants, honey bee and solitary bee, were also observed at most of the sites. Trees larger than 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) were surveyed for the presence of raptor nests. No raptor nests were present. Although many native bird species inhabit the Ballona wetlands near the project, the lots included in the scope of this Initial Study provide little or no biological value to those species that may be found in the Ballona wetlands. No native mammal species were detected during the surveys, other than domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and cats (*Felis domesticus*). Mammals that may inhabit the sites included the black and Norway rat (*Rattus rattus* and *R. norvegicus*) and the house mouse (*Mus musculus*).

## **SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES**

Based on electronic database searches using California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFG, 2003), and California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPS 2003), 31 species were considered in evaluating potential occurrence of special status species at the PDR and MDR lots. These included eight special status plants and 23 special status animal species.

No suitable habitat is present for any special status plant species due to the disturbed nature of the sites, including urban landscaping and grading for well installation and abandonment, and presence of invasive plant species at the PDR and MDR lots. There are no wetlands present to support Ventura marsh milk-vetch, southern tarplant, Coulter's goldfields or Ballona cinquefoil. Although special status plant species that occupy coastal dune habitats have historically occurred within the project vicinity, these species (including San Fernando Valley spineflower, beach spectaclepod, Orcutt's pincushion, and Brand's phacelia) have low potential occurrence.

Several special status invertebrate species are known to occur southwest of the PDR site near LAX airport. No host-plants (i.e., *Eriogonum parvifolium*) to support El Segundo butterfly were observed at the project site. However, the MDR (Cluster 12) project potentially supports marginally suitable habitat for special status beetles and other invertebrates. The Samarkand site (Cluster 9) supports an abundance of eucalyptus trees which potentially supports overwintering monarch butterfly, a special status species.

ESA conducted biological reconnaissance surveys in March 2003 at the MDR and PDR lots to update past reconnaissance surveys conducted by Chambers Group in March 2000. Both the 2003 and 2000 surveys documented existing biological conditions and assessed potential habitat to support special status plant and wildlife species. Entomological Consulting conducted species-specific surveys for globose dune beetle in June 2003. The MDR site (Cluster 12) supports the globose dune beetle, a federal species of concern, on a small degraded central dune scrub plant community (Arnold, R. A., pers. comm., June, 2003). A portion of this site was seeded with an ornamental non-native wildflower mix and is watered during the dry season. The introduction of non-native species, increased vegetation cover (especially on the degraded central dune scrub habitat inhabited by the beetle), and ground saturation (out of the normal

rainy season period) are factors that currently affect the beetle. Potentially significant impacts on the globose dune beetle will be analyzed further in the EIR.

Burrowing owl is a federal and state species of concern found throughout much of southern and central California, and has been observed within five miles of the area. This species often inhabits open areas with low-growing shrubs and has been observed in areas at the edge of cities. In March 2000 the Chambers Group conducted burrowing owl surveys which were equivalent to Phase I, II, and III of the protocol surveys developed by the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group (Chambers Group, August 2000). Results of past reconnaissance surveys conducted by Chambers Group in adjacent undisturbed areas indicated that small numbers of burrowing owls may inhabit “fringe” areas of sites along Calabara Avenue (near Cluster 10 and 11) and 79th Street (near Cluster 8). However, no burrowing owls or burrows for burrowing owls were observed during the March 2000 site visit (Chambers Group, August 2000).

Chambers Group (August 2000) conducted an inventory of trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than six inches in March 2000 (Table C-2).

**TABLE C-2  
TREE INVENTORY AT THE PDR and MDR LOTS**

Location (by Cluster Number)	Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Trees Present (DBH >6")
Cluster 1	Fig	<i>Ficus</i> sp*	1
	Blue elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	1
Cluster 2	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	9
Cluster 3	Victorian box	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> *	3
	Smooth Arizona cypress	<i>Cupressus glabra</i> *	3
	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	6
Cluster 4	Bishop pine	<i>Pinus muricata</i> *	3
	California redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> *	4
	Leyland cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i> *	4
Cluster 5	Fig	<i>Ficus</i> sp*	2
	Canyon live oak	<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	1
	Maackia	<i>Maackia chinensis</i> *	1
	Kangaroo thorn	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i> *	5
	Palm	<i>Arecaceae</i>	3
Cluster 6	Bosnian pine	<i>Pinus leucodermis</i> *	4
	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	11
	Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> *	1
	Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis</i> sp*	7
	Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> sp*	2
Cluster 7	Fig	<i>Ficus</i> sp*	1
Cluster 8	Carrotwood	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> *	2
	Brazilian peppertree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> *	1
	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	12
Cluster 9	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	23
Cluster 10	Benjamin fig	<i>Ficus Benjamin</i> *	1
	Trochodendron	<i>Trochodendron aralioides</i> *	1
Cluster 11	Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> *	3
Cluster 12	--	--	0

\* Indicates non-native to California or local area

SOURCE: Chambers Group, August 2000